



# WAVELAB<sup>7</sup>

Audio Editing And Mastering Suite

## WaveLab 6 to 7 - FAQ

This document helps WaveLab 5/6 users to familiarize themselves with WaveLab 7. At first sight, WaveLab 7 looks quite different compared to older versions. However, once accustomed to the new user interface, editing should be an intuitive task. To achieve this, we appeal to your curiosity and sense of exploration, and to your willingness to adopt a couple of new habits. The in-application help also has a chapter called “Using the interface”.

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## 1. Can WaveLab 6 and WaveLab 7 co-exist on the same system?

Yes, this is possible. You don't need to uninstall WaveLab 6 before installing WaveLab 7. They don't share any settings.

## 2. How to get help?

The in-application help system has been renewed. The first thing you should read is the “Getting Help” text in the in-application help. For this, in the main menu bar, select *Help > Contents*. Notably, context-sensitive help is accessible throughout the application. There are also several tutorial videos available that describe the most important parts of the WaveLab 7 workflow.

## 3. How do I open or create an Audio Montage or an Audio File?

There are several ways to do so, but this may be different from WaveLab 6. To get you going, simply click on the Switcher Window buttons (the small floating window with large icons that you see when launching WaveLab for the first time).

## 4. Why are Audio File and Audio Montage now operated in different main windows?

Audio files and montages require dedicated audio editing tools. By providing different Workspaces for each, you gain more space to visualize information and to interact with specific tools, hence each environment lets you work more efficiently. This concept will also allow the program to continue growing without cluttering a global interface, as was the case in WaveLab 6. To some new users, WaveLab 7 may appear as several independent applications, but this feeling soon disappears when you see how easy it is to switch from one window to another. In the in-application help index, look for “Switcher”. In the application, experiment with the menu “Global” which is shared by all workspaces, e.g., check the F5 shortcut.

## 5. What is a “Tool Window”?

This is a window similar in some ways to an Audio Montage *tab* in WaveLab 6. The concept has been extended to include most parts of WaveLab 7: this is “a window that edits information about a central document”.

It is important to note that there are two types of *tool windows*:

- *explicit tool windows*: e.g. the CD window is restricted to the Audio Montage Workspace.
- *shared tool windows*: e.g. the level meter. Since it is useful in different places, it can be moved to wherever it is needed.

Please read the “About Tool Windows” section in the in-application help for more information.

## 6. About customization

WaveLab is used on laptops and in multi-screen setups. WaveLab 7 is highly flexible and can easily be adapted to your requirements. In a professional environment, you can use three screens, each one hosting a workspace with a sophisticated layout of tool windows. On a laptop, you can use one workspace in full screen mode with a single tool window.

WaveLab 7 does not force users to follow one particular workflow. Our recommendation is to first learn how WaveLab can be configured for your specific needs and setup. Please refer to the in-application help chapter called “Using the interface”.

## 7. Some predefined key shortcuts have changed

Due to cross-platform support and application reorganization, it was unavoidable to change some key shortcuts. We recommend to learn and adopt these new key shortcuts, but if you want to continue using the old shortcuts, this is possible by re-creating them. Please search for “Shortcut system” in the in-application help.

## 8. How do I quit WaveLab?

Because multiple main windows can be open simultaneously, WaveLab 7 will not quit when closing the active main window. It will quit when the last main window is closed. But the recommended way is to simply call the Quit function from any File menu or to use the shortcut “Control+Q” (Windows) or “Command+Q” (Mac).

## 9. What is the Control Window?

This is a dedicated space which can host shared tool windows such as meters and the Master section. It can be placed on a second monitor.

There are three ways to work with shared tool windows:

- Have them docked in a workspace (preferably with the option “Auto move shared tool windows” in the workspace menu) which is perfect if you use a single monitor.
- Have them float, like in WaveLab 6 (better for the meters if you work both with stereo and multichannel configurations). Adaptable to both single and multiple monitor setups.
- Have them in the Control window, e.g., if you have two small monitors.

These are 3 different approaches, and we advise to adopt one way and stick to it, rather than switching between them.

## 10. With the new windowing system, how to drag-and-drop to a window that I cannot see?

- Between two different workspaces: drag an object to the Switcher Window, and hover over the target workspace for half a second: the target window will automatically come to front, and you can drop the object to the new workspace.
- From one tab to another: drag an object over the desired target tab, and hover there for half a second. The target tab will automatically be activated, and you can drop the object to the new tab.

## 11. Document windows could be tiled in WaveLab 6, for quick overview. Is this still possible?

This is still possible, though restricted by design to the Audio File workspace. The *Tile* function is available from the main menu *Tabs > Tile*. You can revert to the standard mode simply by double-clicking on a window caption bar.

Note also the new concept of “Tab groups”. See main menu *Workspace > Tab groups* and the topic “Tab Groups” in the manual.

## 12. Where are program settings located now?

They are all located in a single folder. The location depends on the operating system, and can also be customized. To know the active location, simply let WaveLab tell you: open the Global preference dialog (Options menu of the main menu bar), and on the first page, click on the label “Open active setting folder”.

## 13. About preferences

WaveLab 6 preferences could be found in different places. Rather than mixing unrelated options, the concept has been kept and applied to workspaces: “the preferences are located where they apply”, e.g.:

- The Audio File preferences are found in the Audio File Workspace only.
- The application preferences are found in all Option menus (in the main menu bars)
- The audio streaming preferences are available in the Options menu of each workspace where playback is used.
- Shortcut customization is accessed in the place where these shortcuts are active (menu or button).

## 14. About File Selector dialogs

The standard file selector (“Open” command) is now the standard operating system file dialog (i.e. not customized anymore). On today’s operating systems, you get favorite folders and previewing functions with this dialog.

WaveLab 7 has put the focus on all-time opened file browsers, a bit like the file browser tab in a WaveLab 6 Montage. Each workspace has its own, with its own customizable favorite folders (via drag and drop), and with audio previewing functions (as in WaveLab 6). Drag and drop and double-clicking are the standard actions.

## 15. How to create a new folder from the new “Save as” dialog?

There are two options:

- Click on the folder icon and select “Browse folders” or “Browse files”.
- Type a new folder name in the Folder edit field and WaveLab will create it for you.

## 16. Are there settings that can be reused from WaveLab 6?

Master Section presets can be imported from a menu that opens at the bottom of the Master Section. Other settings from previous versions cannot be reused.

## 17. I cannot find a menu item already seen in WaveLab 7. What could be wrong?

Each workspace has its own menu bar. Some menus are common to all workspaces (menu on the right side, i.e. Utilities/Global/Help), but certain menus, though named similarly, have different content. For instance, the *File* menu of the Audio Montage workspace has “*Import > Audio DDP Image*”, and this is not present in the *File* menu of the Audio File workspace. To prevent cluttering menus, the functions are only included where they are usable.

## 18. Context menu changes

In WaveLab 6, a number of functions were only available through context menus. In WaveLab 7, all functions can be accessed from the main menu or from tool windows. The most important functions are *also* available from context menus. Context menus in WaveLab 7 are for comfort and not to access functions not found elsewhere.

## 19. Where is the old clip edit menu when I right-click on a clip in the Audio Montage?

The Clip menu in WaveLab 6 contained a multitude of functions and numerous sub-menus. Functions were difficult to find and there was no space for further development. Now, a simplified form is provided and all functions previously available can be accessed from the *Focused Clip tool window*. Moreover, the *Effect* part of the old clip menu can be accessed by right-clicking on the Clip name in the track area.

## 20. What happened to the marker menu when I right-click on a marker?

You now get a different menu if you click on a marker head, or in free space in the marker ruler. Moreover, double-clicking on a marker activates the Marker tool window which contains everything you need to edit markers.

## **21. "Bypass Master Section" has changed**

In the Render dialog, "Bypass Master Section on resulting Audio File" has a different effect than in WaveLab 6. Bypassing is now restricted to the rendered file and is not a global setting anymore. This setting can be switched off by clicking on the filter icon at the bottom right of each audio window.

## **22. Where is the function "Render clip to new Audio file"?**

For consistency reasons, this function has been integrated among the new options of the Audio Montage Render dialog.

## **23. How can I add plug-ins to multiple clips?**

This feature is now available with the function "Paste to selected clips" from the Effect tool window.

## **24. Scripting has changed**

Scripting in WaveLab 6 was based on Windows operating system requirements. With the new cross-platform approach of WaveLab 7, the scripting feature had to be redesigned. In the in-application help, look for the topic "Scripting".

As in the past, this part of the program is for the advanced user and will be enhanced according to demands.

## **25. Some WaveLab 6 plug-ins are missing**

Most WaveLab 6 plug-ins are still available from the Legacy sub-menu of the plug-in menu, but only on the Windows version of WaveLab 7. A few plug-ins, like Resampler192, can no longer be supported for technical reasons. If you want to work on both Mac and Windows, it is recommended that you use plug-ins that are cross-platform.

## **26. I can't find certain features**

The backup plan, the CD label designer, the Audio Database and the Montage video track have not been included in this version, because the top priority was to concentrate on the ground audio functionalities of WaveLab. Some of these features might be reintroduced in a new form in the future, according to feedback.

## **27. I use WaveLab 7 under Windows, can I also use it on a Mac?**

Yes, using the same eLicensor USB key, you can install and run WaveLab 7 on the two platforms (but not simultaneously).



## 28. What is new in WaveLab 7 compared to WaveLab 6

- Mac OS X compatibility
- VST-3 plug-in support
- Many new quality plug-ins from Steinberg
- New audio restoration plug-ins from Sonnox
- New DIRAC time stretch engine
- New multi-core batch processor
- New state-of-the-art CD/DVD burning engine
- DDP export and import
- Totally rewritten user interface for improved editing and workflow
- New help system
- Unicode support
- Localized in 6 languages, incl. Italian and Spanish
- Generalized use of drag and drop and mouse wheel
- New shortcut system
- New scripting tool
- External tool support
- Master Project
- Many dialogs have been enhanced with new options